

Undeserved Forgiveness

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John 8:1-11

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. [2] At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. [3] The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery.

ASK: What is adultery??? Adultery is sex outside of marriage, whether you are married or unmarried.

They made her stand before the group [4] and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. [5] In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" [6] They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. [7] When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." [8] Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

[9] At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. [10] Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

[11] "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

This passage tells us about a woman who was a sinner. She had sex with someone besides her husband. In those days people would be killed for doing that!!!! The Pharisees (who were the religious people) were always trying to trap Jesus with his words, so that they would have an excuse to kill Him. So, they bring her to Jesus after catching her "in the act." They say that she should be stoned, because that was the law of the day. Jesus doesn't answer right away and when He does, He says, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." (vs. 7) Jesus doesn't claim that she is innocent or that she deserved to go free. No, in fact she did deserve to be stoned!!!! Jesus however pointed out the simple fact that we are all sinners, and we all deserve death for our sins.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

That means that every single one of us has done wrong in God's eyes. We are all guilty of sin.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The punishment for sin against God is death, not only physical death, but spiritual death. We deserve to spend eternity separated from God in Hell. That's what sin earned for us, but our hope is in Christ. Jesus came to pay for our debt of sin. He lived a perfect life. He was the only sinless human being ever, and so He was the only one that could die to pay for our sin.

Read vs. 9-11 again.

Nobody condemned the woman that day. They all realized that they were sinners too, so they had no right to throw stones at her. Jesus was the only one left standing there with her. He had the right to throw stones if He wanted to. Remember, He was without sin, but He didn't throw a single stone. Jesus didn't come to condemn her, but to free her.

John 3:17-18

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. [18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Jesus paid the price for our sins, but we have the choice as to whether or not we will believe in Him. If we believe we are NOT condemned, but if we don't believe, our choice condemns us. If I decide not to receive Christ then I am the one who condemns myself to Hell.

Illustration: Dollar bill; Offer somebody the dollar bill.

Jesus' forgiveness is like a gift (dollar). A gift doesn't do you any good unless you take it. If _____ hadn't taken the dollar then it wouldn't do them any

good. They can't spend it if they don't have it. Forgiveness is the same way, if we don't receive it, it doesn't do us any good.

Forgiveness Prayer:

Closing remarks: Jesus said, "Go and leave your life of sin." If you ask someone for forgiveness then you can't keep doing the same thing to them. You have to choose to do the right things instead of the wrong things. But don't worry, if you mess up Jesus will take you back, all you have to do is ask. You have received UNDESERVED FORGIVENESS.
Now "Go and sin NO more."